

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action dated May 20, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In response to the objection of claims 7 and 8, these claims have been amended to be in proper dependent form.

In response to the objection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, the claims have been reviewed and amended, as necessary, to eliminate all of the informalities noted by the examiner. Claims 1 and 9 now contain proper transitional phrases, the phrase "or the like" has been deleted, claim 2 has been amended in a manner that is believed to render that claim grammatically clear, and claim 9-12 have been amended to provide positive recitations of method steps and are now believed to otherwise be in proper form.

Accordingly, it is requested that the formal objections and rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102, that claim has been amended to clarify that the surface skin portion of hard synthetic resin covers both the core material and the cap that is fitted in the upper opening portion of the hollow portion. Support for this added limitation will be found in the specification, for example at page 11, first full paragraph. In this respect, the bowling pin defined in claim 1 clearly differs from that disclosed in

the applied reference. Specifically, the bowling pin of that reference includes a cap 4 that is clearly not covered by skin layer 3.

Claims 2-8 should be considered allowable at least in view of their dependencies from claim 1. Moreover, it is submitted that claim 6 further distinguishes patentably over the applied reference by its recitation that the flexibility of the cover is higher than that of the base of the display body. This difference in flexibility cannot be dismissed as "an obvious choice in materials" unless there is some prior art evidence supporting a conclusion that those skilled in the art would have some reason to make the cover of a bowling pin more flexible than the base of its display body. To date, no such evidence has been made of record.

The rejection of claim 9 as unpatentable over the applied references is respectfully traversed for the reason that this claim defines a method not disclosed in either reference, and hence cannot not be considered to be obvious from any combination of their teachings. Specifically, claim 9 has been amended, in a manner similar to claim 1, to specify that the skin portion is formed on both the core material and the deformation preventing material. It should be noted that the deformation preventing material corresponds to the upper cap defined in claim 1.

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Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2005

The indication of allowability of claims 10-12 is noted with appreciation. In view of this indication, claims 10 and 11 have been placed in independent form.

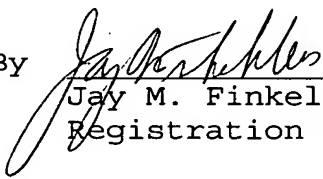
In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn, that claims 1-13 be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment does not now place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.  
Attorneys for Applicants

By

  
Jay M. Finkelstein  
Registration No. 21, 082

JMF:jaa  
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197  
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528  
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